



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm Service Agency

Fact Sheet

E-Government Quick Guide

March 2004

Montana State Producer Handbook



Background

USDA has made changes in the way it does business with its customers. With the enactment of the Freedom to E-File Act, USDA information is provided electronically to agricultural producers. E-Government is a way for the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Rural Development (RD) to provide information systems that allow customers to receive USDA services electronically. Currently, online forms are available for customers to fill out online and submit electronically, by mail, fax, or in person to their local USDA Service Center.

eGovernment Internet Sites

- **FirstGov**
(www.FirstGov.gov) is the gateway to whatever you want or need from the U.S. Government. It's an extensive collection of agricultural, environmental and other online information, plus access to services and resources.
- **eGovernment**
(www.eauth.egov.usda.gov) provides information on the USDA eGovernment initiative, including current applications, progress reports and planning.
- **USDA Home Page**
(www.usda.gov) is the main portal to USDA agencies and offices, featuring the latest news of programs, initiatives, policies and services.
- **National FSA Home Page**
(www.fsa.usda.gov) is the starting point for accessing Farm Service Agency online, with dozens of links to local offices, program sign-ups, forms, conservation programs, loans, fact sheets, news and information.
- **Montana FSA Home Page**
(www.fsa.usda.gov/mt) is the local link to programs affecting producers in Montana with links to the National FSA Home Page.
- **Online Service Center**
(<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/default1.htm>) is the Online Services portal for the Service Center Agencies. It provides links to eForms (online forms), LDP rates, local Service Center offices, Guaranteed Loans partners, Multi-Family Housing partners, Farm Bill details and tools, news and other information.
- **eForms**
(<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet>) provides online access to more than 300 USDA forms to view or print out. These are the forms most commonly used by the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Rural Development. This site also is a starting point to register for e-FILE online, where USDA customers may download, save, complete and submit many of these forms online. This also is the starting point for those who already are registered and have a log-in and password for using e-FILE.
- **National NRCS Home Page**
(www.nrcs.usda.gov) is the entry point for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, its programs, news and technical references. There are links for farmers and ranchers, communities, homeowners, teachers and students, and others who have business with NRCS or need information.
- **Montana NRCS Home Page**
(www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov) provides information pertinent to producers on important sign-up dates and programs suited to Montana's natural resources.
- **TechReg**
(<http://techreg.usda.gov>) makes it easy for farmers, ranchers and other USDA customers to find certified Technical Service Providers for their county, or for individuals to register and become certified.
- **eFOTG**
(<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg>) gives USDA customers access to electronic Field Office Technical Guides for each state. The guides contain technical information about the conservation of soil, water, air, and related plant and animal resources. Guides used in each field office are localized so that they apply specifically to the geographic area for which they are prepared.

- **Plants Database**
(<http://plants.usda.gov>)
provides standardized information about the plants, mosses, lichens and other flora of the U.S. and its territories. It includes names, plant symbols, checklists, where they grow, characteristics, images, references, crop information, and other data.
- **E-answers**
(<http://128.227.242.197>)
is a searchable Web site that provides reliable, research-based information on a wide range of Extension or Outreach-oriented subject matter from the knowledge base of Land Grant Universities.
- **eLoans**
(<http://www.reeusda.gov/eqov/presidential/eloans.htm>) allows USDA customers to apply for, obtain and manage USDA loans.
- **eRulemaking**
(www.regulations.gov) is Online Rulemaking Management, where USDA customers may offer their comments online concerning proposed rules and regulations authored by USDA agencies.
- **eGrants**
(<http://grants.gov>) provides centralized Web-based access to apply for and manage USDA grants to rural businesses, state/local governmental units and universities.
- **eEligibility**
(<http://govbenefits.gov/jsp/GovBenefits.jsp>) provides confidential electronic "one-stop shopping" across all USDA agencies so customers may determine the USDA programs or services for which they are eligible.

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